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EAGLE, *Euſtace-ſtreet*, 9th *Nov.* 1791.

AT A MEETING

OF

THE SOCIETY OF

UNITED IRISHMEN

OF

DUBLIN,

THE Hon. SIMON BUTLER in the CHAIR,

The following was agreed to:——

WHEN we reflect how often the Freemen and Freeholders of Dublin have been convened, humbly to expreſs their Grievances to Parliament — how often they have ſolicited the enaction of good, and the repeal of bad Laws—how often, for ſucceſſive years, they have petitioned againſt the obnoxious and unconſtitutional Police Act—and how often all theſe applications have been treated with the moſt perfect contumacy and contempt!——When theſe facts are brought to recollection, is there an Honeſt Man will ſay, that the Houſe of Commons have the ſmalleſt reſpect for the People, or believe themſelves their Legitimate Repreſentatives?——The fact is, that the great Majority of that Houſe conſider themſelves as the Repreſentatives of their own Money, or the hired ſervants of the Engliſh Government; whoſe Miniſter here, is appointed for the ſole purpoſe of dealing out corruption to them—at the expence of Iriſh Liberty, Iriſh Commerce, and Iriſh Improvement.—This being the caſe, it naturally follows, that ſuch Miniſter is not only the Repreſentative of the Engliſh Views againſt this

this Country, but is alſo *the ſole Repreſentative of the People of Ireland.* To elucidate which aſſertion, it is only neceſſary to aſk, whether a ſingle queſtion in favour of this oppreſſed Nation can be carried without HIS conſent?—And whether any meaſure, however inimical, may not, through HIS influence, be effected?

IN this ſtate of abject ſlavery, no hope remains for us, but in the ſincere and hearty *Union of All the People*, for a complete and radical reform of Parliament; becauſe it is obvious, that *one Party alone* have been ever unable to obtain a ſingle Bleſſing for their Country; and the Policy of our Rulers has been always ſuch, as to keep the different ſects at variance, in which they have been but too well ſeconded by our folly.

FOR the attainment, then, of this great and important object—for the removal of abſurd and ruinous diſtinctions—and for promoting a complete Coalition of the People—a Club has been formed, compoſed of all Religious Perſuaſions, who have adopted for their Name——THE SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN OF DUBLIN, and have taken as their

DECLARATION,

That of a ſimilar Society in BELFAST, which is as follows:

"IN the preſent great æra of reform, when unjuſt Governments are falling in every quarter of Europe; when religious perſecution is compelled to abjure her tyranny over conſcience; when the Rights of Men are aſcertained in theory, and that theory ſubſtantiated by practice; when antiquity can no longer defend abſurd and oppreſſive forms againſt the common ſenſe and common intereſts of mankind; when all Government is acknowledged to originate from the People, and to be ſo far only obligatory as it protects their rights and promotes their welfare; we think it our duty,

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duty, as Iriſhmen, to come forward, and ſtate what we feel to be our heavy grievance, and what we know to be its effectual remedy:

"WE HAVE NO NATIONAL GOVERNMENT—We are ruled by Engliſhmen, and the ſervants of Engliſhmen; whoſe object is the intereſt of another country; whoſe inſtrument is corruption; whoſe ſtrength is the weakneſs of Ireland; and theſe men have the whole of the power and patronage of the Country, as means to ſeduce and ſubdue the honeſty and the ſpirit of her Repreſentatives in the Legiſlature. Such an intrinſic power, acting with uniform force in a direction too frequently oppoſite to the true line of our obvious intereſts, can be reſiſted with effect ſolely by *unanimity, deciſion, and ſpirit in the People*; qualities which may be exerted moſt legally, conſtitutionally, and efficaciouſly, by that great meaſure eſſential to the proſperity and freedom of Ireland, AN EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT.

"We do not here mention, as grievances, the rejection of a Place-Bill, of a Penſion-Bill, of a Reſponſibility-Bill; the ſale of Peerages in one Houſe; the corruption publicly avowed in the other; nor the notorious infamy of Borough traffic between both; not that we are inſenſible of their enormity, but that we conſider them as but ſymptoms of that mortal diſeaſe which corrodes the vitals of our Conſtitution, and leaves to the people in their own Government but the ſhadow of a name.

"IMPRESSED with theſe ſentiments, we have agreed to form an Aſſociation, to be called THE SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN; and we do pledge ourſelves to our Country, and mutually to each other, that we will ſteadily ſupport, and endeavour by all due means to carry into effect, the following reſolutions:——

"I. RESOLVED, That the weight of Engliſh Influence,

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in the Government of this Country, is ſo great as to require a Cordial Union among ALL THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND, to maintain that balance which is eſſential to the preſervation of our Liberties, and the extention of our Commerce.

" II. THAT the ſole conſtitutional mode by which this influence can be oppoſed, is by a compleat and radical reform of the Repreſentation of the People in Parliament.

" III. THAT no Reform is practicable, efficacious, or juſt, which ſhall not include *Iriſhmen* of every Religious Perſuaſion.

" SATISFIED as we are, that the inteſtine diviſions among Iriſhmen have too often given encouragement and impunity to profligate, audacious, and corrupt adminiſtrations, in meaſures which but for theſe diviſions they durſt not have attempted, we ſubmit our Reſolutions to the Nation, as the baſis of our Political Faith.

" WE have gone to what we conceive to be the root of the evil; we have ſtated what we conceive to be the remedy.—— With a Parliament thus reformed, every thing is eaſy; without it, nothing can be done. And we do call on, and moſt earneſtly exhort our Countrymen in general, to follow our example, and form ſimilar ſocieties in every quarter of the Kingdom, for the promotion o f conſtitutional knowledge, the abolition of bigotry in religion and politics, and the equal diſtribution of the Rights of Man through all Sects and Denominations of Iriſhmen.

" THE People, when thus collected, will feel their own weight, and ſecure that power which theory has already admitted as their portion, and to which, if they be not arouſed by their preſent provocations to vindicate it, they deſerve to forfeit their pretenſions FOR EVER."

ORDERED, that the foregoing be printed for the uſe of the Members.

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JAMES NAPPER TANDY, *Secretary.*